

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM THREE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011
7:00 P.M.

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

CHAIRMAN THOMAS SHIELDS
COMMISSIONER THOMAS BOWEN
COMMISSIONER KEVIN CHICK (ALTERNATE)
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL GERHART
COMMISSIONER JAMES MAROCCHINI
COMMISSIONER DAVID MARSDEN
COMMISSIONER GREG POLK
COMMISSIONER FERNANDO ROSA
COMMISSIONER DANA WOODS

ABSENT
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL LONGO

ALSO PRESENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
TOWN PLANNER, EDMUND MEEHAN

II. MEETING MINUTES - DECEMBER 1, 2010

Commissioner Bowen made a motion to accept the December 1, 2010 minutes and Commissioner Marochinni seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. MALLOY/WYMAN TRANSITION TEAM POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT
SECLECTED WORKING GROUP SUMMARIES

ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND JOBS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Shields highlighted that the report emphasized railroad transportation as opposed to busway transportation and also that expenditures have been allocated to the environmental budget of this project for brownfield remediation. In addition, there will be a consolidation of economic development agencies into only one economic development commission.

Chairman Shields then went on to bring attention that this light rail transportation/light freight project would include lowering the viaduct at I-84 into downtown Hartford at ground level creating more business expanse and the train would include more stops; this project beginning in 2013.

B. NEWINGTON BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Chairman Shields suggested Thursday, May 26, 2011 at the Indian Hill Country Club. Chairman Shields added that a request would be made to CL&P to contribute to offset the cost of this affair, as they had done the previous year. Chairman Shields has invited a state officer to speak on financing economic development projects.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. REPORT OF COMMISSIONER BUSINESS DISTRICTS

Commissioner Marochinni announced that there is a new restaurant in town, FAT AND HAPPY. Economic Development Director Meehan also noted that PLAZA ACTECA is a new restaurant that is considering occupancy of the former Carson's restaurant.

Commissioner Polk observed that the Newington Police Department is chalking wheels on Main Street, after a two hour allowance has expired. The new Irish restaurant FINN BQUE'S is very pro active at their Main Street site.

B. STATUS OF MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASES I AND II

Economic Development Director Ed Meehan reported that there are still winter issues with the snow piles and problems with drainage to be resolved. With Spring on the horizon requests have already been made for the Kiwanis Flea Market and Farmer's Market. Chairman Shields suggested that a subcommittee be formed so that the Waterfall Festival will be once again held this Fall, which Commissioner Polk offered to bring up at the Downtown Business Association meeting.

C. STATUS MARKET SQUARE STREETSCAPE PROJECT

Mr. Meehan reported that meetings will be held regarding offsite improvements with the individual owners the week of March 7, 2011.

D. NATIONAL WELDING PROPERTY

Chairman Shields pointed out that the biggest cost factor is the remediation of the environmental problems. Commissioner Bowen was concerned about holding \$450,000.00 in the CIP budget that could be put into an active road construction with the agreement that when the National Welding project is ready to start, that the CIP fund money would be returned – in other words, using the money wisely when needed and not

kept in a holding pattern. Commissioner Bowen stated again, just for the record, that there is \$450,000.00 sitting in the same account for two budget cycles being wasted. Mr. Meehan replied that during the 2012/2013 budget season the status of this funding could be reviewed and this is not the time to delete the \$450,000.00. The Town will need to market this property for redevelopment whether the transit option is buway or light rail roadway access from Fenn Road is critical to getting this property back on the tax rolls.

Commissioner Marsden made a motion that this body concur Town Council resolution #2011-09 supporting light rail, January 25, 2011. Commissioner Chick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Shields will forward a letter to the Governor's office with copies to the Town Council and Town Manager.

Commissioner Marsden reported a new business – K&J APPLIANCE - has opened at Stoddard and Main Streets.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons commented that she is happy to hear support of light rail and commended the Downtown Revitalization Committees' actions that kept down the costs for the Market Square Streetscape project. She was also concerned about the deplorable condition of the dumpster area.

This opened up discussion by the commissioners noting their concern regarding remedying the poor status of the new dumpster enclosures at the Municipal Parking Lot. Members noted gates are left open, litter is not picked up and the gates have snow plowed against them; no custodial care being taken by the users and by the Town is to keep this area clean. The consensus of the commission was to have the Chairman send a letter to the Town Manager expressing the Commission's displeasure and recommending the appropriate Town department contact ALLWASTE and users of the dumpster, in order to address these problems.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marochinni made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission Bowen seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Glenn
Recording Secretary